(Amount Rs. In lakh)

Programme Year	Loans Disbursed	
	Number	Amount
2005-06	7584	5349.67
2006-07	7205	5201.36
2007-08	7737	6939.33

New SBI branch at Jangla, Shimla

1241. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is only one branch of UCO Bank at Jangla in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Government is also aware that around 20 thousand people reside in nearby areas and they face a lot of difficulties as there is only one bank to cater to their needs;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to open a new branch of State Bank of India (SBI) in view of the needs of local businessmen and pensioners; and

(d) if so, the time by which the aforesaid branch is likely to be opened at Jangla in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. UCO Bank has reported that it has only one branch in Jangla centre, Shimla District, Himachal Pradesh. As per the 2001 census, Jangla has a population of 1093. Reserve Bank of India has reported that at present 165 branches of commercial banks function in Shimla district.

(c) and (d) Opening of new bank branches is governed by the provisions of Section 23 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Under the extant Branch Authorisation Policy of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), banks are required to submit their Branch Expansion Plans for opening of branches etc., on an annual basis in line with their medium term corporate strategy. RBI while granting approvals ensures that the approvals include centers in rural/under banked districts also and gives weightage to the nature and scope of banking facilities provided by banks to common persons, particularly in under banked areas. A list of underbanked districts has been forwarded to banks to enable them to identify centers for opening branches in such districts.

State Bank of India has reported that it is conducting a survey in the area and if found feasible, the bank will submit a proposal to RBI in this regard.

Use of fund obtained by disinvestment

†1242. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.